

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Computer implemented method for computing demand forecast information for a demand forecast application capable of being graphically represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with at least two branches directly emanating therefrom each having at least one node with a time series of observations associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a database for storing time series of observations;

(b) providing at least two computer servers each independently capable of computing demand forecast information for an entire branch of the demand forecast tree; and

(c) computing demand forecast information from said observations stored in said database using one of said at least two computer servers for at least one of said two branches of the demand forecast tree; and

(d) simultaneously with said one computer server computing demand forecast information from said observations stored in said data base computing demand forecast information from said observations stored in said data base using said other of said at least two

computer servers for at least two branches of the demand forecast tree ~~on two different ones of~~  
~~said computer servers.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 and further comprising the steps of:  
([[d]] e) allocating each and every branch of the demand forecast tree to a task including one or  
more branches for execution on a single computer server of the at least two computer servers  
where the same computer server computes the demand forecast information for an entire task.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 and further comprising the steps of  
([[e]] f) determining the number of tasks as the product of the number of computer servers  
available for computing demand forecast information and a user entered value.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the total number of bottom level nodes of  
the branches of each task is substantially equal for all the tasks.

5. (Currently Amended) Computer implemented system for computing demand forecast  
information for a demand forecast application capable of being graphically represented by a  
demand forecast tree having a single top level node with at least two branches directly emanating  
therefrom each having at least one bottom node with a time series of observations associated  
therewith, the system comprising:

(a) a database server for storing time series of observations; and

(b) a forecast engine including

two or more computer servers each computer server having a computer capacity to compute independently capable of computing demand forecast information for an entire branch of the demand forecast tree and connectable to said database server so as to retrieve selected ones of said observations, and

a computer manager that assigns said two or more computer servers to [[for]] simultaneously compute ~~computing~~ demand forecast information for at least two branches of the demand forecast tree, each computer server computing demand forecast information for at least one said branch ~~on two different computer servers of the at least two computer servers.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 5 wherein said ~~and further comprising a~~ computer manager for allocating each and every branch allocating to a task including one or more branches for execution on a single computer server of the at least two computer servers where the same computer server computes the demand forecast information for an entire task.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 6 wherein the computer manager determines the number of tasks as the product of the number of computer servers available for computing demand forecast information and a user entered value.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 7 wherein the total number of bottom level nodes of the branches of each task is substantially equal for all the tasks.

9. (New) Computer implemented method for computing demand forecast information for a demand forecast application capable of being graphically represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of branches directly emanating therefrom, each branch having at least one node with a time series of observations associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a database for storing time series of observations;

(b) providing a plurality of computer servers, each computer server independently capable of computing demand forecast information for an entire branch of the demand forecast tree, wherein the number of provided computer servers is less than the number of branches; and

(c) allocating each one of the plurality of provided computer servers for processing one or more branches such that all of said branches have been allocated among said provided computer servers;

(d) computing with each provided computer server demand forecast information from observations stored in said data base.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9 wherein said step of computing demand forecast information is done simultaneously by said plurality of provided computer servers.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10 wherein said step of allocating each one of the plurality of provided computer servers comprises allocating each one of the plurality of provided computer servers such that the expected computing time for each computer server is substantially equal.

12. (New) The method according to claim 9 wherein said allocating step comprising allocating each and every branch of the demand forecast tree to a task including one or more branches for execution on a single computer server of the at least two computer servers where the same computer server computes the demand forecast information for an entire task.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12 and further comprising the step of (e) determining the number of tasks as the product of the number of computer servers available for computing demand forecast information and a user entered value.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13 wherein the total number of bottom level nodes of the branches of each task is substantially equal for all the tasks.